



**Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire**

**Minutes of Annual Village Meeting held
on Wednesday 23 April 2025 at 7:30pm at Kennington Village Centre**

Cllr. Alan Cobb – Chair of the Parish Council, took the Chair and welcomed all to the Annual Village Meeting.

In attendance: There were 42 residents, Emily Shipway (Practice Manager for The Manor Surgery & Kennington Health Centre; John Ashton (The Manor PPG); PCSO Maddison Highmoor; PCSO Ali Blood and Anne Feather (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Gamble; Caroline Ashby; Caroline Knighton; Hannah Brockwell; Stephen Dawson; Rhiannon Smith and Jo Lees

1. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 7.30pm had had been circulated in advance by the Clerk. The meeting approved the minutes, proposed by Cllr. Feather seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed by all. They were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Chair's Report

April 24 - Started the year with an instance of fly tipping in Forest Side car park. A few residents not happy with new speed restrictions. Flood issues in Sandford lane not urgent enough for Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC) Engineer who asked to meet in June as department was stretched with other flood issues affecting the flooding of houses. Flag Poles were overhauled and 2 Flags of Peace were bought to celebrate D Day.

May 24 - Offensive graffiti on the underpass dealt with by OCC. Council was working on the transfer of the War Memorial land from VoWHDC's ownership to the parish council's.

Secured a new 10 year lease for Forest Side from St Johns College. This will enable grant funding for play area, if needed. Apple Café agreed to have Council Surgery on first Saturday in the month whereby residents can come along and have a chat with councillors. CCTV was installed at both pavilions as a result of successful grant application to Police Commissioner proceeds of crime budget fund. Youth Club lost its leader and needs a new roof.

June 24 - Met with the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways Operation Manager during the month and reported issue on slip road at the north of the village. A crew came and cleared the gullies and catch pits, they also found an additional catch pit which they also cleared. Council responded reporting that it would seem to be a little better and also requested that this clearing work be added onto a maintenance programme. Play area at Forest Side closed as adjudged to be unsafe after RoSPA inspection.

July 24 - Leylandii tree had two branches snap off at the top of Forest Side. Oxford Tree Surgeons cut both down and took away as a matter of urgency. Combination lock on the defibrillator cabinet outside Kirlena didn't work every time, took Clerk five attempts to open the cabinet. New lock purchased and replaced by Cllr. Feather. Replacement battery purchased for the defibrillator at Playfield Road pavilion. Sandford Lane had more water issues this time from Thames Water Treatment Plant. They and Oxfordshire County Council were contacted resulting in a drainage survey after which there was assurance that Sandford Lanes issues would be sorted.

September 24 - Rats were found in the pavilion at Playfield Road. Justin Satchell was appointed as the new Village Warden. Cllr. Feather overseeing Playfield Pavilion rebuild including planning application. St Swithun's Church happy for a bench to be installed in the Cemetery in Memory of the late Colin Charlett. Colin had been on Kennington Parish Council for 44 years, retiring in 2023. 10 of those years he was Chair. There was a proposal from St Swithun's Church to Twin Kennington with Musanda in

Kenya and to request the council's support. Sandford Lane was flooded on 23 September due to the amount of rain through the previous night.

October 24 - Pest control at Playfield pavilion. Rats Gone

November 24 - Complaints about Forest Side Play Area being shut. Unfortunately working party have devised possible replacements and will put to Village to see which option is preferred. These things do take time. Flooding in Sandford Lane received a response from John Backley (Technical Services Manager) of VoWHDC. Also received email from Gordon Kelman from OCC explaining that the jetter crew successfully removed three medium sized root masses from the culvert, explaining that further root cutting work is booked in (19-20 November). Gordon Kelman contacted after 20 November requesting again for OCC to include the maintenance and safety of the trash screen in its programme and to confirm responsibility for its structure. There were still concerns around the balancing pond on the Redrow site as not functioning as it should. Council organised a defibrillator awareness course in the village hall which was successful. This year's Remembrance Day service went well, with residents thanking councillors for their efforts. It was commented that the sound quality of the PA system was far better than in previous years. Councillors commented on how nice the War Memorial looked on the morning, with thanks going to Rosey Hollinrake. The councillors would also like to thank Apple Café for their support on the day.

December 24 - Lynch Brothers erected the 18' Christmas tree at The War Memorial. They have asked if they could advertise their company at The War Memorial. Clerk thanked them via the Kennington Chronicle; Cllr Feather thanked them for all their hard work – they did a great job. Cllr. Cobb also thanked them at The Carols around the Tree. Assuming Lynch Brothers Homes kindly offer to erect next year's tree a sign could be erected thanking them. It was agreed that next year a discrete sign be placed next to the Christmas Tree would be erected 'This Christmas Tree was kindly erected by Lynch Brothers Homes Limited'

January 25 - Radley Big Wood Deforestation became an issue between both Kennington and Radley residents and St Hildas College. Two noisy manhole covers in Kennington Road. Installation of Zebra Crossing in St Swithun's Road.

February 25 - Manhole covers in Kennington Road replaced by Thames Water. Parking issues at school times raised again. This time with regard to Poplar Grove. PCSO has been informed. Damaged street sign outside St Swithun's Church was replaced by VoWHDC. Council agreed that Forest Side play area be repaired and re-opened as replacement of the site will not go ahead until 2026. From the survey that Councillor Brown instigated option 4 was the preferred option and that is what companies will be tendering on. The broken matting at the bottom of the slide in The Links has been replaced. It was agreed that filling in the uneven area when the sandpits were located was a good idea and that having a grassed area would be more suitable.

March 25 - Councillors were very pleased with how The War Memorial was looking and thanks went to Rosie Hollinrake for her continued work, with low level plants looking good. Revd Samson formally invited the Parish Council to the event of Twinning with Musanda in Kenya at 3pm on 18/05/25.

School parking once again raises itself this time with regard to dangerous parking in Poplar Grove. OCC parking contractors have been asked by OCC to deploy an Enforcement officer to the area at school times. PCSO Maddie Highmoor has also been informed.

That concludes my report. Thank you

3. Financial Statement for 2024-25

The Clerk presented the financial statement for 2024-25. She reported that

The total expenditure in 2024-25 was £113,526. This is an increase in running costs from the previous year, which is largely due to maintenance and repair costs of the pavilion at Playfield Road.

In 23-24, £10,678 was spent on pavilion maintenance including the repair of the garage wall at Playfield Road. As you know this pavilion is planned to be replaced, but until then money still needs to be spent on its upkeep which in 24-25 came to £5,436. In 23-24, £2,896 was spent on litter collection, this year it was £1,987 this figure is lower as part way through the year the council employed Justin Satchell as our Village Warden – who is doing a great job. In 23-24 the council spent £1,017 on Christmas events, this financial year £906 was spent – hopefully you can all remember the bigger Christmas tree at The

War Memorial! Income in 24-25 totalled £157,093 of which £117,110 came from the precept. Other income included the annual County Council's grant for the highway verge cutting (£2,335); (£5,678) bank interest. The parish council also received £26,943 in Community Infrastructure Levy, CIL for short. In 24-25, 31% of expenditure related to employee costs, with 23% spent on the play areas, playing fields and pavilions. Expenditure on village maintenance took 17% of the total spend. There are charts and information on the display boards detailing how the council's expenditure has changed over the past 10 years and how the parish council's income has generally increased also. Money is being saved towards the Playfield Road pavilion project. Application for planning is, as we speak, with VoWHDC, with the council expecting a decision next month. The council has also been saving money towards a new play area at Forest Side. Tenders are out and will close next month. The Parish Precept for 2025-26 was set at £151,238 which costs a Band 'D' property £86.90. This was an annual increase of £19.47 (37p per week) on a Band D property.

4. Matters arising from the reports – None

5. Reports from Local Committees and Organisations

Written reports had been forwarded to Clerk to be displayed at the back of the village hall for all residents to read. Some committees/organisations also presented their reports in person.

5.1 The Manor Surgery & Kennington Health Centre – Practice Manager – Emily Shipway

Reported the ongoing improvements to the health centre and thanked the residents for making them all feel so welcomed into the village.

5.2 The Manor Patient Participation Group (PPG) – John Ashton reported as follows:

The main Patient Participation Group meet three monthly. The meetings are held alternately at Headington and Kennington. Last year the Group elected an Executive Committee which deals with more day to day matters regarding the Practice.

The Executive Committee is comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and three additional members with an equal split of representatives from the two surgery sites at The Manor, Headington and Kennington Health Centre.

The Executive has met monthly over the course of the year with the Practice Manager, Emily Shipway. Over the last eight months and in consultation with the Practice Manager, the PPG has promoted the use of the NHS App to patients. This helps the surgery because the App enables patients to order repeat prescriptions and look at the results of any tests, they've had without contacting the surgery. It also makes it easier for patients to access services that the surgery provides as well as viewing their personal medical records. Over these months a PPG member has been present on a weekly basis at the Headington surgery and a more ad hoc basis at Kennington Health centre, to perform this role. Feedback has indicated that patients have valued this work.

In the Autumn of last year the PPG attended the Old Person Day at Oxford Town Hall. The stall had members from other PPG's present and it helped to promote PPG's in Oxford.

The Executive has made contact with local MPs to try to exert pressure for the creation of a Social Care policy by Government. Signatures in support of this were sought at Oxford Older People's Day. The Group continue to pursue the local MP's and Ministers and hope to be involved in the soon to commence independent commission into adult social care as part of the Governments first steps towards delivering a National Care Service.

The surgery has undertaken to produce a periodic newsletter for the benefit of the patients to which the PPG will participate.

Additionally, the surgery website is being up dated and the PPG will assist the Practice in the testing of this. The PPG will have a section on the website.

5.3 St Swithun's Primary School – Head teacher – Caroline Knighton

As I mentioned last year, we introduced our lunchtime OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision nearly two years ago now and were delighted to receive a Platinum Award in July of last year. The provision has continued to go from strength to strength. If you do have anything that you think that children would enjoy playing with and you no longer need, we'd love to hear from you: dressing up

clothes, wheelbarrows, pushchairs, large cardboard boxes, tarpaulins, sheets – anything that children can be creative with. Please do look at our website for more information and some photographs of what the children have been up to. <https://www.stswithunprimary.org/OPAL-14122023111004/> It has been a joy continuing to work with the Church and we were delighted with our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection: Driven by the vision, this is a highly inclusive and happy community with a strong focus on adults' and pupils' wellbeing. Pupils behave very well, and relationships are harmonious. St Swithun's Church of England school transforms the lives of adults and pupils.' We much enjoy our monthly Open the Book sessions and were, once again, very grateful to an amazing team of volunteers who helped us deliver BeSpace again this year as well as a Christmas and Easter experience in our school hall.

As environmental sustainability is one of our key strategic aims, we are delighted to have welcomed Claire Gilbert back onto our Governing body. Claire is supporting us in creating our three-year Climate Action Plan. In the meantime, Eco Crew have been busy working on renewing our Eco Schools status and our year 6s have enjoyed their Climate Ed lessons. We have installed LED lighting in the junior building. Finally, we were delighted to have been one of the finalists for the Sustainable Primary School of the Year in the Oxford Climate Awards.

We have continued with our varied curriculum trips and experiences. The children continue to enjoy their year 2, 4 and 6 residentials and we were very excited to have actual moon rocks in school this year! We have set up a Chess Club and much enjoyed competing against another school. In addition, we continue to compete against other schools in athletics, cross country, rugby and football and are looking forward to an upcoming lacrosse tournament.

We are particularly grateful to Radley College for many memorable moments – from Radley Zoo to singing in Coventry Cathedral with the Gabrieli Roar choristers. We have attended a number of music concerts as well as Music Flood week and a number of children are also enjoying weekly sessions at the Radley farm. Our thanks also to all the boys who come and spend time in classes each week.

It has been lovely continuing to work with the local community including the Community Larder and Paul Gamble who has run a creative writing club which children have much enjoyed. Our Singing Squad have also enjoyed singing at the Memory Clinic in the village. It has also been good to work with the library and develop our very own promotional video!

<https://www.stswithunprimary.org/News/Kennington-Library-Promo-Video/>

One of the key changes we have brought in this year is to change our catering supplier to Fresh Start who cook all meals fresh on a daily basis. Our thanks to them for ensuring that our children are as healthy as possible.

Our thanks to the amazing FOSS (Friends of St Swithun's) team of parents who hold events throughout the year which raise significant funds for school and enable us to do things that we might not otherwise be able to do. Our thanks also to Oxford Active for providing our Breakfast and After School Club as well as our ever popular Holiday Club.

Finally, my thanks to all the staff, Governors and volunteers for making the above possible. I feel very blessed to work with such a wonderful team who each and every day ensure that we all continue to grow and flourish!

For more information, please do take a look at our website <https://www.stswithunprimary.org>.

5.4 Kennington Methodist Church – Doreen Biggadike reported as follows:

Sunday services continue although there is still a shortage of Ministers. There are, however a few Lay Preachers and Andrew Dunsdon continues to take a "Together" service once a month. These services include craft, discussions, tea, coffee and refreshments. We are also trying a Café Style Church, led by a Lay Preacher. Again, a more informal service with tea, coffee and refreshments which we hope will encourage those wanting to explore the Christian Faith but are not used to formal services.

Attendance to services is between 8-12 members, with some loyal members attending weekly. Maintenance remains on-going as the building ages with roof tiles, windows etc. needing to be replaced. We are due a Quinquennial in January 2026. The garden is also a concern as we lack members who are able to do any physical work.

Various groups, organisations still use our building including Memory Club who use it twice a week.

It is with sadness to us all that we have recently held our last monthly Coffee Morning. Yvonne and Barry Enoch, and Carole Ross have organised these mornings over the last 35 years. Yvonne needs an operation and unfortunately there is no-one to replace her. We are very grateful to them and all those who have helped over the years. It has been so much more than a Coffee Morning selling second hand clothes, books, jigsaws, jewellery etc. and having a raffle. This is not forgetting the teas and coffees and Yvonne's lovely cakes. We have thanked those who have attended each month for being so loyal and have appreciated their friendship. It was unexpected to receive a number of cards from people who have enjoyed these mornings and considered them the highlight of their month.

5.5 St Swithun's Church – Revd Samson Kuponiyi reported as follows:

The Church continues in her worship of God, by coming along side of the community and offering service to all, irrespective of faith or none. In the year we had amongst others, our "walk of faith" on Good Friday – this is where, carrying a cross a group of us walked from the Radley Church to Kennington Church and finished it with a worship service at St Swithun's. In summer we had the summer fete – where the community was welcome to enjoy a lovely afternoon in church buying and selling their goods and of course with the ever so popular BBQ. We also held our Holiday club in summer, where almost 70 children were treated to various fun activities over a 3-day period, under the supervision and guidance of volunteers. Also, in collaboration with the Parish Council and the whole community, we had the remembrance Sunday celebrations at the war memorial with our choir singing alongside The Kennington Band. We also joined the Parish Council at the Carols by the Christmas Tree, using the church to serve refreshment after the carol. Also, at Christmas, we had our Carols by candlelight. The plan is to make this a community event going forward, where representatives of the community will be invited to read passages from the Bible.

In collaboration with the school, the church continues to run the Kennington Community Larder. Where recycled school uniforms are made available to parents/guardian at no cost to them. The Larder also continues to help aid the schools breakfast club as and when needed. In this past year, the Larder has been able to help families in the community. All these are made possible by the generosity of the church and community members, Kennington Parish Council being one of the benefactors.

The Larder had an unannounced inspection by the Food and Safety Agency earlier in April (this year) and was awarded a rating of 5 – "very good". A big thank you to all members of the community who continue to support the larder in many ways and especially to those who supply cakes to the Larder café and to all our volunteers for their hard work.

Forget me not is another of church run activities, managed entirely by volunteers. It is a place for bereaved persons to come together and share their journey over home-baked cakes and tea. This runs every first Tuesday in the church hall.

Little Lambs is open termtime only on Wednesday mornings and is popular with parents/guardians for their child(ren)/ward. With the generosity of the volunteers, making it happen, and the community donating toys (and more) this continues to grow, like a leaking bucket that is filled faster than it leaks. Bus-Pass, as the name suggests, is for those who are at the age where they can get free bus pass. And it is held on third Friday of every month, where people meet over light refreshment, spending time together, making new friends and catching up with old ones. Different activities are organised every now and again. This is also church led and managed by volunteers.

Finally, A BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers from our community – church members and non-church members, all these would not have been possible without them.

The Church remains open every day of the week, all are welcome either to any of the services or just to come, have a sit down for a quiet time of reflection.

5.6 Thames Valley Police – PCSO Maddie Highmoor reported as follows:

I continue my role as a PCSO on the Abingdon Neighbourhood Policing Team and have the responsibility for Radley and Kennington. Our team is currently made up of: one Police Sergeant, four Police Officers and eight PCSOs. We are split into two smaller teams, and as a team, we cover Abingdon, and the surrounding villages, as well as the Botley/Cumnor/North Hinksey/South Hinksey/Kennington areas of Oxford. My team and I work a four-week shift pattern, which consists of early and late shifts.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has published the Police and Crime Plan for the area of Thames Valley, which outlines his priorities for the area. These are: Protecting Communities, Protecting People, and Protecting Property. The local priorities on the Abingdon Neighbourhood Policing Team are: Violence Against Women and Girls, Retail Crime, and Anti-Social Behaviour. All of these are certainly relevant to my work in Kennington.

Statistics show that key crimes such as Burglary have seen a notable decrease. Work is continually taking place to help tackle knife crime, which has subsequently resulted in a considerable reduction in knife-enabled offences, and Thames Valley Police has been recognised as one of the safest parts of the country.

Over the course of the last year, I have spent a large amount of my time patrolling and responding to incidents across Radley and Kennington.

Work that I have been involved in over the last year has included:

Dealing with anti-social behaviour, responding to incidents of concerns for individuals' welfare, conducting enquiries for missing people, providing crime prevention advice to victims of crime, as well as completing safeguarding visits/calls with individuals, who have been a victim of Fraud.

As the PCSO for Kennington, I aim to hold a bi-monthly 'Have Your Say' Event in the village. This event provides local residents with the opportunity to pop along to say hello, and discuss any issues or concerns they may have within the local community. These events are usually advertised on a poster in the Foyer of Kennington Village Hall, on the Kennington Parish Council website, and in the Kennington Chronicle.

There has been positive news for Kennington, as between April 2024 and March 2025, figures have shown that there has been a:

15% reduction in reports of Criminal Damage incidents.

60% reduction in reports of Public Order incidents.

72% reduction in reports of Theft.

77% reduction in reports of Theft from Motor Vehicles.

5.7 Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT)

Thank you for inviting us to present a report on of our activities over the past year.

OPT looks after 113 acres in Kennington (Kennington Memorial Field & Kennington Flood Meadows) keeping these fields green and free from development. OPT activity in the Kennington area over the past year has included:

- The memorial field was grazed by Stuart Young, OPT's grazer in Kennington.
- It wasn't possible to graze the flood meadows due to the ground conditions being too wet.
- Abingdon Green Gym, with a couple of Kennington local residents, carried out work parties in the Memorial Field in the Autumn and Spring to cut back some of the scrub and brambles. This field is special to us because of its Local Wildlife Site status for its species-rich neutral grassland, as well as the impressive ant-hills. The volunteers were focused on trying to reduce the amount of scrub ready for the cattle to come and nibble down the left-over stumps during the Spring / Summer, and to reduce the amount of scrub encroaching onto the ant-hills.
- At the flood meadows, we repaired fencing, replaced a broken gate and a stolen gate.
- Hannah Brockwell, OPT's Green Spaces officer, laid a wreath on behalf of Oxford Preservation Trust at the Kennington Remembrance service in November.

More recently and this year:

Memorial field:

- The cows have been grazing on the memorial field since early April.
- In the Autumn, we will carry out a volunteer work party to keep on top of the scrub and brambles. We will continue to advertise work parties in the Kennington Chronicle; all are welcome to attend and tools and instructions are provided.

Flood meadows:

- The cattle are expected to be out grazing on the flood meadows from late summer.
- There is some more fencing to put in, to help with grazing.

- We are still mindful of the boggy area in the meadows on the Thames Path near to Rose Island and that the footbridges are impassable when the water levels are high. We continue to consider what can be done to improve this and are working on signage and wayfinding to inform visitors of alternative routes.

Anti-social behaviour: We have received several reports of bikes (off road / trail bikes, e-bikes) racing up and down the Sustrans track and driving through the flood meadows. There have also been bikes riding on our boardwalk over the river at Heyford Meadow, Sandford. We appreciate being made aware of any intimidating, anti-social behaviour. We have been in contact with the local authorities about this and the Police has advised the following:

- o If safe to do so, please report these activities via 999 / 101 (on your phone or online) and give as detailed a description as possible of those involved and a location.
- o A What 3 Words location reference (www.what3words.com and there's an app) is very helpful as are photos and videos (again, only if safe to do so)
- o Please also let us know via email (info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk or h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk) or phone (01865 242918) ASAP and we will follow up with the Police.

Unfortunately, the Police has very limited resources to tackle this type of crime. The more information they have, the more likely they'll be able to act on it.

Other updates:

- On the cycle track, Sustrans continue to maintain the track as needed.
- Low Carbon Hub has some further works to do on their building. They have some reinstatement of the meadows, near to the Sandford Lane entrance, to carry out when the ground has dried out enough.

All are welcome to enjoy these green spaces on foot at any time as there is permissive access.

We welcome Kennington residents to get in contact with us if they spot anything of concern in our green spaces. If it concerns grazing, Stuart Young welcomes hearing from you via 07786 931481.

You're also welcome to share any photos or drawings of our land via our social media (@OxfordPresTrust). We really enjoy seeing accounts of wildlife you have spotted, as well as the enjoyment of walking or cycling in the countryside.

If you want find out more about volunteering or OPT events please email info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk.

As a charity all our crucial work, including the maintenance of our green spaces within Kennington, would not be possible without our members, donors and volunteers.

Becoming a member is easy – you can do so online www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/join or by telephoning the office on 01865 242918.

5.8 The War Memorial – Rosey Hollinrake reported as follows:

I've enjoyed tending the flower beds at The War Memorial since 2020. As well as honouring the war dead, I hope that the space can serve the living, for whom those who dies gave their lives. In 2024, my husband, James Dawson and myself spent time tidying up the paths from weeds and moss, using grit, determination and Pathclear! Similarly, we treated the lawns with weed and feed twice during the year, to improve their lushness. I'm grateful for the parish council allowing me to tend the flower borders, which gives me so much joy. Thank you

5.9 Thames (Kennington) Trefoil Guild

Donations were £100.00 in total.

Gifts or Charity donations to speakers who don't charge including £40 for a Purification unit for a charity in Uganda.

Speakers and In House Meetings

January - AGM and games.

February - Rhiannan gave a talk on her trip to Madagascar, and we made "under arm fudge".

March - Sue and Colin Townsend gave an illustrated talk about their voluntary work in Uganda.

April - A member's husband brought items from his home museum. "What do you think this was used for".

May - Open Evening – Bret and Karen Wiles gave an illustrated talk on Rationing and cooking for Victory.

June - A chocolate evening.

July - Annual BBQ

August - Walking options and Lunch at Farmoor Reservoir.

September - A talk about HMS Belfast

October - A meeting of chatter and quizzes

November - Members made Christmas dwarves and box and ball Christmas tree decorations.

December - Christmas meal, carols and Secret Santa

5.10 1st Kennington Guides – Jo Lees

I am pleased to share this short report that outlines the various activities and achievements of the Guides over the last year, highlighting their teamwork, learning experiences, and events.

Thinking Day Camp: The Guides participated in a camp with Rainbows and Brownies, engaging in games and learning about Braille, culminating in awards for their efforts.

Skills for my Future: The Guides made butter, planted sunflower seeds, learned about chatbots, and recognized their leaders with awards for commitment.

Have Adventures Theme: They enjoyed a nature walk, navigation skills practice, and a first aid session, enhancing their outdoor skills.

Go Motorsport Challenge: The Guides built and raced Lego cars, learned about fire safety at the fire station, and planned summer outdoor activities.

Outdoor Activities: They explored geocaching, prepared camping menus, and enjoyed cooking sessions, including a trip to Belfast with various adventures.

New Term Activities: The Guides focused on designing new badges, participated in a live Monopoly Run, and celebrated individual achievements.

Sea Savers Challenge: They engaged in ocean conservation activities, creating games and learning about food webs and ocean health.

Be Well Theme: The Guides explored physical activities, healthy eating, and held a candle-lit Promise ceremony, while planning for a Christmas sleepover.

As with Brownies, the Guides remain challenged to deliver activities with a restricted budget, having a desire not to pass the increase of costs onto our parents.

5.11 3rd Kennington Brownies – Jo Lees

Over the past year, 3rd Kennington Brownies have engaged in a diverse range of activities and earned numerous badges. They have completed badges such as Charities, OxTrail Challenge, Skills for my Future, Communication Skills Builder, Express Myself, Winter Quest, Winter Challenge, Live Smart, and Jobs

Highlights of Activities:

OxTrail Challenge: Raised funds for Sobell House and learned sign language

Communication Skills Builder: Created communication Top Trumps game and learned the phonetic alphabet

Paris 24 Olympic Challenge: Participated in handball, synchronized swimming, Olympic torch relay, boccia, fencing, hockey, and volleyball

Express Myself: Made autumnal pop-up cards, water rockets, and attended the village Act of Remembrance

Winter Challenge: Painted positive messages on rocks, made festive robins, and tried curling

Live Smart and Jobs: Explored science experiments, designed pencil cases, interviewed leaders about their careers, made slime, learned knotting skills, celebrated Pancake Day, and created vision boards for their dream job

Achievements:

Awarded Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards

Completed various badges and skills builders

Developed new skills such as sign language, mandala painting, and knotting

Participated in community events and fundraising activities

Welcomed Brownies who transferred from another unit that had to close

Our activities have recently been restricted by the challenge of the cost of living increases, and our desire not to pass these onto parents.

The Brownies have shown great enthusiasm and dedication in their activities, and their achievements reflect their hard work and creativity. They are looking forward to continuing their journey and celebrated their accomplishments with a special unit celebration.

5.12 Kennington Thames Rainbows

It's been a brilliant year for our Rainbow unit – one filled with fun, learning, and truly memorable moments. Our girls have continued to flourish, growing in confidence, friendship, and independence. Here's a look at what we've achieved together over the past year.

Programme Adventures

Throughout the year, the Rainbows have been working hard on their programme activities, including a range of exciting skills-builder sessions that helped them explore teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and more—all through fun, hands-on learning.

Kindness and Marmalade Challenge Badge

A highlight this year was the Kindness and Marmalade Challenge badge. With the support of our two fantastic Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, the Rainbows took on this badge with enthusiasm and heart. It was a joy to see the girls embracing the theme of kindness, whether helping others, being thoughtful friends, or doing good deeds in the community.

Community Spirit

In November, our unit proudly took part in the village Act of Remembrance. The Rainbows stood beautifully to show their respect and remembrance for those who have served. It was a moving and meaningful experience for the girls and a chance to be part of something very special in our local community.

Special Visitors and Celebrations

Our Christmas activities were full of fun and sparkle – from crafts and games to festive songs and laughter.

We were thrilled to welcome Thames Valley Police, who gave a fantastic visit where the girls learnt about staying safe and the role of police officers. The Rainbows were full of great questions and thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

Remarkable Achievements

A huge well done to two of our Rainbows who earned their Gold Awards – the highest award a Rainbow can achieve. Their dedication and hard work are something to be truly proud of.

And a very special congratulations to Rhiannon, who completed her Queen's Guide Award this year after two and a half years of commitment and perseverance. This is the highest award in Girlguiding – a truly incredible achievement, and we are so proud of her.

Thank You

We want to give a heartfelt thank you to the brilliant team of leaders who make everything we do possible: Liz, Pauline, Sam and Rhiannon. Your energy, time, and kindness make such a difference to the girls, and we couldn't do it without you.

Looking Ahead

As we move into a new guiding year, we look forward to welcoming new Rainbows, earning more badges, and continuing to create a space where our girls can shine, grow and have fun every step of the way.

5.13 40th Oxford Sea Scout Group

Twelve years a Chair, and this year has been probably the most tiring. The battle with the insurance company for our subsidence claim has now been going for six years, and we've called in the Finance Ombudsman. Please send your friendly thoughts, and prayers (if you do that), that we can finally settle the claim for a figure that resembles what the building will cost to redecorate and keep us all safe for years to come.

My (volunteer) job is to keep the venue and framework going, for the leaders to do their (volunteer) jobs with the young people. This is a huge team effort, by the same old faces:

- treasurer Sandra Ward

- secretary Sam Smith
- maintenance and risk manager Steve Daniels
- quartermaster Ray Rylatt
- safety chief (with a side in marketing) Paul Hallam
- hall hire manager Chris O'Hare
- waiting list manager Wendy Lancaster

On top of their leadership roles:

- Claire Rylatt, keeping our digital records in order
- Matthew Rylatt, for repairs and grounds maintenance

And we also want to send huge thanks to our retiring treasurer, Sandra Ward for ten years of tireless service getting our numbers in the right columns to keep us afloat. We are thrilled to have opened a new Scout Troop, Dreadnought, which meets on Tuesdays, so there are finally a few spaces scattered through the sections. Scouts are aged 10.5-14.

We are really fortunate that there are enough of us so that there is always someone happy to do the bits of a role that you dislike – and if it's been your goal to rub shoulders with a fireman, swim wild in Oxfordshire backwaters, learn calligraphy, go zorbing down the Chilterns, or sit around a camp fire whittling a whistle then please talk to any of us. Whatever your skill or interest, please think about sharing it with us.

Please talk to any leader, or email kenningtonscouts@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved. You can do as little or as much as you want. Take a look at our new website:

<https://www.kenningtonscouts.org.uk/>

5.14 Kennington Garden Club – Marilyn Farr reported as follows:

Following its rebirth as Kennington Garden Club in the spring of 2024 what was previously Kennington Horticultural Society has been very active. We ran a very successful Plant Sale in May 2024 and a well-attended Tea Party in August. The organisation of visits to interesting gardens over the summer of 2024, some very successful, others less so, provided a steep learning curve, from which we hope to benefit in the coming summer.

For the Club's new financial and programme year at the beginning of October we published a programme of events for 2024-25 which includes the re-instatement of the Annual Show, to take place on 6th September 2025. Between last October and this month (April) we have run a series of talks by both local speakers and those from further afield which have filled the Church Hall, as well as the usual Social Evening in January and a very successful coach trip to see snowdrops in Welford Park in February. May will be a busy month, with the Plant Sale, a coach trip to the Malvern Spring Show and manning a plant stall at St Swithun's School's Fete. We look forward to other garden visits over the summer and, of course, the Annual Show in September. We are also investigating the possibility of organising a Club holiday in 2026.

We have managed to maintain our positive financial position, despite the high cost of speakers and coach hire. For the current year we raised the membership fee to a still modest £5 per annum and were very pleased to record 150 enrolments. The number of members has since then risen to approx. 170.

As Chair, I would like to record my appreciation of the hard work, carried out with great good humour, of the Club's committee. The officers and committee members are as follows:

Roger Dennett (Honorary President)

Marilyn Farr (Chair)

Robin Mason (Vice-Chair/Publicity)

Linda Marshall (Treasurer)

Stephanie Warren (Membership)

Norma Sweeney (Visits)

Jon Guest (Talks)

Brian Warren (Secretary)

Linda Mason (hospitality / publicity support)

Bernadette Bennett (recently co-opted)

The Club is collaborating with other bodies in the village such as Wild About Kennington; Apple Café and plans to be part of St Swithun's School fete this year.

5.15 Kennington WI - Maureen Palmer reported as follows:

I give this report on behalf of the members of Kennington Women's Institute.

As reported last year we are looking forward to celebrating our one hundredth birthday in May next month. We are very grateful to the Parish Council who have kindly given us a grant to help towards a celebration tea party and entertainer. We have invited some previous members as well as other guests to join us to make it a happy and memorable occasion.

We continue to have a variety of speakers each month and had an afternoon tea party at Frosts Garden Centre and a meal at Christmas at the Spread Eagle in Abingdon.

A presentation was made to the Kennington History Society at their Annual General Meeting in February and we continue to publish details of our meetings and speakers in the Kennington Chronicle each month as well as our page on the Village website.

Although our numbers are quite small, they are very constant. It is thought we are possibly the oldest organisation in the village and hope it will long continue.

5.16 Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society

It's been another fantastic year for Kennington Amateur Dramatics, and as Chair, I remain incredibly proud of all that we continue to achieve together - not just as a performance group, but as a charitable organisation rooted in community spirit.

In May 2024, we were proud to officially become a registered charity. This is a significant milestone that strengthens our foundation and helps ensure the long-term sustainability of the group. It's a reflection of our continued commitment to being an organisation that not only entertains, but serves and includes all members of our community. In July 2024, we staged Heart & Music, a joyful and heartfelt musical concert which ran for four performances from the 11th to the 13th of July. This was a true celebration of musical theatre, togetherness and family, which showcased the vocal talents of our members and bringing together audiences for a warm, uplifting summer event.

Our annual pantomime followed in January 2025 with The Wizard of Oz, which ran for eight shows from the 24th of January to the 1st of February. This production was a huge success - entertaining hundreds of audience members and receiving tremendous feedback for its energy, humour, and creativity. We were also thrilled to be recognised at the Oxfordshire Drama Network WinterFest Awards, where we won a prize for Best Music, were runners-up for Best Production, and received honourable mentions for Best Baddie, Choreography and Chorus.

We've also recently unveiled our plans for our upcoming January 2026 pantomime - an ambitious project that we're incredibly excited about. Details will be made public in due course, but we hope the local community will share in our excitement and look forward to what promises to be another memorable production.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our fantastic committee, who not only to keep the group running but to ensure we're evolving thoughtfully and inclusively. And to our incredible membership. Their passion, dedication, and sheer talent are what bring our productions to life. It's a joy to be part of a team that not only entertains, but also contributes to the community and promotes togetherness. Lastly, thank you to the Kennington community for the ongoing support you show us year after year. Whether it's through attending our shows, volunteering, or just cheering (or occasionally, booing) us on. This makes all the difference, and we never take it for granted.

We look forward to the year ahead with excitement and enthusiasm.

5.17 Kennington History Society – Mike Simpson reported as follows:

2024 has been a good year for the Kennington History Society. We have moved beyond the post-covid recovery years through 2022 and 2023, with consistently high visitor numbers, a reinstated external visit and exciting plans for the future. At the same time, inflation and increased costs have had a financial impact in the last twelve months, which we have responded to with a planned increase in fees, which will begin from 2026 onwards. Another challenge which will be familiar to many Kennington societies is the difficulty in recruiting committee members to support the running of the society, which will be essential both for the realisation of the opportunities available to us and to reduce the administrative pressures on our existing committee.

Our visitor numbers increased sharply in 2024 (15% total, 71% non-members), reflecting the ongoing local interest which justifies the need for a History Society for the village. At the same time, our membership has fallen by 14%. Our revised charges for 2026 supports our goals of raising finances and

increasing membership numbers. As agreed at our recent AGM, our non-visitor charges will increase by 40% from £2.50 to £3.50 per meeting while our member fees will increase by 20% (up to a very modest £30 per year for families and £18 per year for individual members). We are also introducing part-year membership for those who want to join after the summer break (from Autumn 2026), as well as making it easier to pay memberships with online and card payment options.

Core to our recovery in recent years has been our very successful and interesting series of talks covering a range of topics on history, local history and archaeology. These included 'Taking the waters: the waxing and waning of the English Spa', 'The Roman invasion, occupation and colonisation of Britain' and 'Abingdon Abbey's deer park and Radley Large Wood'. These talks are often interactive with historical objects and the audience have a chance to stay behind and discuss the topic with speakers after the talks. We also produced Issue 33 of our annual newsletter 'Times Past', which covered a review of the year, some history trivia and a crossword. In July 2024 there was a very successful trip to Radley Church which included a guided tour.

The most rewarding aspect of the society is to hear members and visitors talking about the evening's presentation over a cup of tea and a biscuit following another successful talk, and it is notable how much louder this is in 2024 and 2025 than in previous years due to our increased visitor numbers. Overall, we have a very positive future ahead for 2025 and 2026 with excellent and engaging topics for meetings planned. These include "Christopher Wren's Oxford", "Warrior Women of the Civil War" and "Victorian Christmas". If these or our other talks are of interest please do come along and join us.

5.18 Kennington Chronicle – Amena Sutton reported as follows:

Thank you for this opportunity to share the work of the Kennington Chronicle with you.

Now in our 41st year of publication, the Chronicle continues to bring news and information from various organisations in and around Kennington that we feel are of relevance and interest to our villagers.

In the past year, we have welcomed new contributors and added to our team of deliverers as some very long-serving volunteers have retired.

We welcomed new members of our Chronicle Team this year. Alice Nightingale became our producer in January when Roger Winkworth retired. Roger had been producer for five years and did a splendid job, improving the look and layout of the Chronicle during that time. Ken Rae, who has been the south end distributor is leaving the village soon and his role has been kindly taken by John and Liz Brookes who have themselves been deliverers for some time. Thank you to Ken for his sterling support for the Chronicle and all that he did as a distributor. We continue to be supported by Roger Dennett, Chair, Paddy Landau, support, David North, treasurer, Marilyn Farr, north end distributor and Mark Horseman. We meet twice a year to review our principles and practice.

We have introduced new features and we continue to have a focus on the environment in our village.

We are grateful to all those volunteers who subscribe, deliver and help with the production each month. Without our advertisers we could not exist, so we are indebted to them as well.

We are always willing to hear from residents about how we could improve the Chronicle and bring information and news that they would like to have. Please do get in touch with us. All details are on the back of the Chronicle.

5.19 Kennington Chorale – Amena Sutton reported as follows:

Kennington Chorale (formerly known as Kennington & District United Church Choirs) was founded in 1973 by the late Trevor Cowlett. The choir has given concerts in Kennington and in venues in the surrounding Oxfordshire area every year since then (with the exception of 2020). All concerts are given free of charge with donations taken for various local, national and international charities. Since 1973, the choir has raised over £825,000 for these causes.

In 2024, the choirs gave four performances under the direction of Claire Sutton Williams, who became director in January 2022. Performances were as follows:

Concert date	Music	Venue	Donation
March 2024	<i>The Crucifixion</i> by Tom Edney (world première)	St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford	£600 to The Prison Choir

June 2024	Summer concert in memory of Wendy Lewis – various Gilbert & Sullivan songs	St Swithun's Church, Kennington	£1111 to Sobell House
July 2024	<i>Captain Noah and the Floating Zoo</i> - a 'sing-in' to raise funds	St Swithun's Church, Kennington	£156 for Choir funds
December 2024	<i>Hodie: Ode on the Nativity</i> by Vaughan-Williams	St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford	£500 to Gatehouse

The choir is always looking for new singers. We rehearse in Kennington Methodist Church every Friday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. There are no auditions and no subscriptions. Choir members donate voluntarily to the funds every week as much as they are able. The choir depends on these voluntary donations to pay for our weekly accompanist and the rental charge, as well as for soloists and accompanists at concerts.

Since January 2025, the choir has been led by Judith Sawyer, herself a former professional singer and teacher who trained at the Royal College of Music. Judith first sang as soprano soloist with the choir in 1975 and continued to do so for about 20 years. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our Spring concert, Music for Eastertide, in St Swithun's Church.

5.20 **Friends of Kennington Library (FOKL) – Claire Gilbert reported as follows:**

Kennington Library thrives with the essential support of the community and FOKL. FOKL raises a significant proportion of the library's running costs every year and organises a team of volunteers to support the librarians. We are very grateful for the generous support of Kennington Parish Council. Our popular monthly Wednesday morning Coffee Talks have continued throughout the period. These were augmented by a series of evening talks, which have proved very popular, particularly with those who are unable to attend daytime events.

For 2024 we introduced a new fund-raising event, an Authors and Artists Fair, held in the Main Hall of the Village Centre. This provided an opportunity for residents to meet local authors and artists. The Fair was very well attended and will be repeated in 2025. Other fund-raising events included the popular Quiz Night, generously organised and sponsored by Tonks Brothers.

A full programme of children's events, such as Rhyme Time and Stories and Craft sessions have been held at the library with the support of the Friends. Children were encouraged to participate in the 2024 Annual Summer Read Challenge, with awards being presented to participants at a party held at the Village Centre.

We are grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to help with the running of the library, new volunteers are always welcome.

We hope that local residents will continue to make full use of the library as it is a vital resource for the community. The library always needs more Friends! It costs from just £5 a year to become a Friend and by signing up you are helping to keep this vital community resource flourishing. Sign up here:

<https://friendsofkenningtonlibrary.org.uk/become-a-member/>

5.21 **Wild about Kennington (WAK) – Rowan Guthrie**

Wild about Kennington would like to thank the Parish Council for your continued support for our Wildlife Friendly Verges project in 2024. We respectfully request a continuation of this support for another two years. The following is a summary of our activities and the impact of our project in 2024. We thank the Parish Council for your consideration of this proposal to extend the project to 2027 and beyond, based on this summary.

Activities and impact in 2024/25

These activities were undertaken to address the concerns and feedback received during the previous year from the Parish Council and from residents of the village:

Height of grass at junctions. We set up 3-weekly patrols from amongst our members to monitor any visibility issues at the junctions and reported our findings back to the Parish Council. During the summer we hand cut any problematic areas of tall grass. In autumn 2024 areas of tall grass in the verges were scarified and sown with wildflower seed including yellow rattle.

Impact: Visibility at the junctions was considerably improved. There were no reported “near misses” nor any reported accidents during 2024.

Lack of colour in the verges. We planted vast numbers and a wide variety of native plants in the verges. In addition, we held two Community Bulb Planting days in October 2024. Residents of the village and children of St Swithun’s School were invited to join us in planting over 2000 native daffodil and crocus bulbs in the verges. We thank the Parish Council for covering the cost of these bulbs. Additionally, we used our own funds to plant 300 snowdrops ‘in the green’ around the trees between the War Memorial and Grundy Crescent this January.

Impact: There was a significant increase in the colour and variety of plants seen in the verges in 2024 and this will continue in the Spring and Summer of 2025 with the newly planted bulbs, wildflower plants and seeds. The biodiversity of the verges has also been increased.

Strategic plan. The Wild about Kennington committee met monthly during 2024 and carefully monitored the strategic plan which had been presented to the Parish Council in 2024. We stuck to the plan robustly with the exception of planting trees and shrubs which required more consultation and consideration. This included a grant application to Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE) for scarifying problematic areas of dense tall grass in the verges and sowing wildflower seed including yellow rattle, and for enhancing the biodiversity of an area of Forest Side.

Impact: TOE awarded us a grant of £3000 which covered the cost of scarification, purchase of wildflower seed, purchase of scythes and rakes, and the cost of a scything course in June 2025 for 6 members of WaK which will allow members of WaK to manage the area at Forest Side more robustly.

Plans for 2025-2027

- Liaise with the Parish Council regarding further ‘tweaks’ to the mowing contract – e.g. delaying or omitting the March cut to avoid damaging the newly planted daffodil and crocus bulbs.
- Monitor the Forest Side site; further wildflower planting; scything and raking the area in the autumn
- Further wildflower planting in the verges to increase biodiversity and colour
- Work with Oxfordshire County Council on improving the areas. OCC have also agreed to provide signs for the verge project
- Continued monitoring of the verges and sight lines at junctions
- Talk from Oxford Preservation Trust in May 2025 which will be open to all residents.

5.22 Kennington Festival Group – Dee Grant reported as follows:

Is still going as strong today as when it was initially established in the village in the 1980’s.

We are all proud that it remains a successful and enjoyable opportunity on a fortnightly basis for members to get together in the safe and caring environment of the village hall.

In the last year we have sadly lost some long standing members and some members who now due to health and their personal situations who require alternative living arrangements - they may not attend any longer but are remembered for their personalities with affection.

Our membership number at present is 30 and we continue to warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Members pay a yearly £7.50 membership fee which covers the cost of the hall hire and contributes to any lunches we plan either in the hall or the Tandem.

Bingo cost is 40p per game and members choose the number of tickets they purchase - all the money collected is then used as prize money. £2 is also collected from each member at each session which covers the cost of the raffle prizes and tea/coffee and cakes.

We have a Treasurer who audits any money taken after each session and a clear record is maintained for transparent purposes. We do not operate with the intention to make any profit, any money accrued is used to celebrate different occasions during the year, for example Easter and Christmas, our annual garden party and ensuring each member receives a birthday card and a Christmas gift.

In October last year we made the decision to withdraw from the Charity Commission for the reason of being a non-profit making group meeting just twice a month for the duration of two hours and being run purely by volunteers.

On this basis, the charity commission accepted a voluntary removal from their register.

As stated a clear recording of the finances is always available for any member to access and is audited by an independent person each year. We continue to have a dedicated committee who are all involved in the preparation and planning of each session.

Our Chairman, Margaret Biggs who has held the position since 2008 made the decision at our recent AGM to step down.

The Committee, of nine, made the decision, which all members were advised of, to operate as a co-operative and continue to run the group as it is at present.

We continue to appreciate the dedication of our volunteers, two who make the tea and coffee and do the washing up, two who provide transport and our now very established bingo caller who as well as calling the numbers informs us about all things that include planes, trains and buses ! Automobiles may just be in the pipeline !

To conclude, another good year for us ,a few changes along the way, but still going strong and moving towards a 50 year mark, which surely indicates the value and enjoyment of the Kennington Festival Group 🍪🍰

5.23 Kennington Table Tennis Group – Alan Marsh reported as follows:

The table-tennis group meets every Tuesday from 10.30 – 13.00 in the Youth Club, which we sub-let directly from them. We have been running now for some 5 years and there are 25 folk on our list of players. There is no formal structure – one of us has responsibility for the key, and another looks after the subscriptions that covers rental and refreshments. We like it that way. Most of us are retired, although in school holidays one or two children join us. We average about 16 players per week, and pay 3 pounds each session. We have three tables, and from 10.30 – 11.00 we play singles games; then from 11.00 – 13.00 we play doubles. This year we have incorporated a coffee & biscuit break around 11.30, which has allowed us to socialise more freely – certainly one of the reasons people enjoy coming. The standard of play is, we feel, not too bad, and regular players have certainly improved over time. But we don't have any real measure of how good the overall standard of play is, compared to other such groups elsewhere; and to be honest we don't really care; we are not a competitive club and don't play against any other villages or groups. Nor do we wish to. We play for fun, exercise, laughter and good company, - and now for coffee and biscuits too - and those goals govern how and why we turn up. We are a very easy-going and welcoming bunch of people, although with a regular turn-out of 14 – 18 we are now probably at comfortable capacity, given that there are only 3 tables. If others wished to play, the tables can be made available but arrangements would have to be made with the Youth Club to hire the room on another occasion in the week.

5.24 Kennington Wind Band

The Kennington Wind band continues to meet monthly at the St Swithun's Church hall, with membership ever shifting, we have players from aged 6 through to adults; complete beginners to those playing at grades 5 and above.

The focus remains 'to have fun making music' and give the players a chance to play for an audience.

We attended the Risinghurst Fete in June of 2024 and opened the show and we visited Sandford Care home and gave the residents a summer concert.

In December 2024 we held our concert which attracted a good number of supporters and villagers to enjoy both the training band and main band play together, as part of the concert we awarded prizes for our players who have worked hard, improved and been an example to other band members.

The concert is also a chance for us to support another charity, this year we selected soundabout the Oxfordshire based inclusive choir and were pleased to donate £200 to them.

5.25 Wolvercote Cricket Club – Chris Babbs

Wolvercote Cricket Club (WCC) is a vibrant and inclusive cricket club, based in Cutteslowe Park and Playfield Road Kennington, welcoming players of all ages and abilities. The club has experienced significant growth in recent years (currently ~70 adult and ~100 youth members) and fields four adult teams and a rapidly expanding youth section. WCC is committed to playing competitive cricket in a friendly and welcoming environment, emphasizing both sporting achievement and enjoyment for all its members

WCC offers a comprehensive programme of cricket activities throughout the year. The main playing season runs from May to September, during which the club participates in both league, friendly and evening matches. The adult teams compete in the Cherwell League, with representation in divisions 3, 4, 7, and 8 on Saturdays. In addition to league fixtures, WCC organizes Sunday friendlies (Playfield Road and Cutteslowe) and midweek friendly matches, typically on Tuesdays (Cutteslowe) and Wednesdays (Playfield Road), providing ample opportunities for members to play and develop their skills. The club also boasts a well-respected youth setup, with teams ranging from Under 9s to Under 17s. There are specialized coaching sessions for younger children, including "All Stars" for ages 5-8 and Dynamos Softball for ages 8-11. Girls' cricket is actively promoted, with dedicated teams for Under 9s to Under 13s. Coaching is available year-round, with indoor net sessions in winter and outdoor training in summer.

Beyond cricket, WCC fosters a strong social community. Regular events include a pre-season BBQ, an annual "Wolvercote vs the Rest of the World" intraclub match and an end-of-season awards dinner.

6. Questions for Local Committees and Organisations - None

7. Suggestions/Comments from Parishioners

Resident requested clarification by the parish council as to its role in supporting the youth in the village, especially those attending the Youth Club. Cllr. Cobb explained that the Kennington Village Hall Management Committee, made up of all users, including the Youth Club, is responsible for the Village Hall which encompasses the Youth Club building too. A meeting has been offered to meet with the Youth Club, the parish council and the management committee.

The meeting closed at 8:43pm

Signed **Date**